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GPT/Custer Spur EIS c/o CH2M HILL,  
1100 112th Avenue NE Suite 400  
Bellevue, WA 98004

Dear Scoping Consultants,

As a lifelong asthma sufferer, I am extremely concerned about the effect of millions of tons of coal moving through Western Washington. I could find no definitive measurements of the airborne particulates released by the current coal trains with which to assess future releases. Although the transportation industry has made efforts to reduce the release of coal dust, the actual measurements of airborne dust are not published in a manner which would allow anyone to judge the impact on the health of those downwind of the rail line and shipping terminal.

It is known that daily hospital admissions for lung problems are directly related to airborne particulates<sup>1,2,3</sup>. The EIS should require measurement of amount and size characteristics of coal dust and train diesel exhaust over the shipment route. This information should then be used to study and predict the effects on the health of those living near the entire train route and proposed terminal.

Only complete elimination of coal dust and diesel particulates would fully mitigate this issue. If no action is taken to mitigate these health effects, the coal and shipping companies should be held fully liable for providing continuing health payments to those effected, possibly to a general fund rather than to individuals.

Sincerely yours,

David Wilbur

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1 Catherine J.Karr , CaroleB.Rudra, KristinA.Miller, TimothyR.Gould, TimothyLarson, Sheela Sathyanarayana, JaneQ.Koenig 2009 Infant exposure to fine particulate matter and traffic and risk of hospitalization for RSV bronchiolitis in a region with lower ambient air pollution. Environ. Res. 109, 321-317

2 Karr, C., Lumley, T., Schreuder, A., Davis, R., Larson, T., Ritz, B., Kaufman, J., 2007. Effect of subchronic and chronic exposure to ambient air pollutants on infant bronchiolitis. Am. J. Epidemiol. 165, 553-560.

3 Karr C, Lumley T, Shepherd K, Davis R, Larson T, Ritz B, Kaufman J. A case crossover study of wintertime ambient air pollution and infant bronchiolitis. Environ Health Perspect 2006;114:277-281.